

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LISBON 04082 191258Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05

CCO-00 /076 W

----- 128899

O R 191200Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3470

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 4082

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: (A) LISBON 4044; (B) LISBON 4080

SUMMARY: PS HELD HUGE RALLY IN OPORTO. CHECKPOINTS HAVE BEEN SET UP ON ACCESS ROADS TO LISBON, GENERALLY UNDER CONTROL OF COPCON, BUT WITH PCP AND MDP MEMBERS PRESENT. RESTRICTED GROUP OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBERS MET WITH PS, PCP, AND INTERSINDICAL LEADERS EVENING JULY 18 BUT NO ANNOUNCEMENT MADE. FULL RC MEETS TODAY WITH OUSTER ATTEMPT AGAINST PRIME MINISTER EXPECTED. PS RALLY IN LISBON TONIGHT COULD LEAD TO VIOLENCE IF MILITARY UNABLE TO CONTROL PCP-MDP ELEMENTS AT CHECKPOINTS. END
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LISBON 04082 191258Z

SUMMARY

1. PS OPORTO RALLY: AMCONSUL OPORTO AND ON THE SCENE OBSERVERS REPORT THAT JULY 18 PS RALLY IN OPORTO HAD TURNOUT OVER 70,000-- PERHAPS LARGEST POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION IN PORTUGAL SINCE THE REVOLUTION. ATTEMPT BY COMMUNISTS AND INTERSINDICAL TO ERECT BARRICADES AND CHECKPOINTS FADED AWAY COMPLETELY WHEN SOCIALISTS FORCIBLY DISMANTLED FIRST BARRICADE. AMCONSUL REPORTS THAT PS WAS UNUSUALLY WELL ORGANIZED IN GETTING AND TRANSPORTING RANK AND FILE TO STADIUM, LOCATED ON OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN. RALLY WAS PEACEFUL ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME INCIDENTS AND INJURIES AFTERWARDS IN CONNECTION WITH THE BURNING OF COMMUNIST AND MDP BOOTHS IN OPORTO'S MAIN SQUARE.

2. CHECKPOINTS IN LISBON: STARTING AT 11:00 P.M., JULY 18, CHECKPOINTS BEGAN TO APPEAR ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LISBON. COPCON ON MORNING OF JULY 19 CONFIRMED SOCIALISTS HAD DENIED THEY PROMOTING MARCH ON LISBON (SOCIALISTS HAVE TROUBLE GETTING ANYTHING IN PRESS THESE DAYS) AND SAID THAT COPCON WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKPOINTS, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD WELCOME SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE. EMBOFF WHO SPOKE WITH CIVILIANS AT A CHECKPOINT FOUND THAT THEY WERE COMMUNISTS AND MDP AND THAT CHECKPOINT WAS DIRECTED AGAINST A "REACTIONARY MOVE ASSISTED BY THE ELP AND SOCIALISTS." AN AMERICAN TRAVELING FROM OPORTO TO LISBON ON MORNING OF JULY 19 REPORTED THAT HE ENCOUNTERED FOUR CHECK POINTS, ALL MANNED BY MILITARY WITH NO PARTICIPATION OR INTERFERENCE BY CIVILIANS. TRAFFIC INTO LISBON IS SLOWED BY CHECKPOINTS BUT IS MOVING STEADILY. (COMMENT: COPCON ASSUMPTION OF AUTHORITY AT CHECKPOINTS HAS IN PAST BEEN MODERATING INFLUENCE THAT PREVENTED EXCESSES BY CIVILIANS, ALLOWED THE GOVERNMENT TO STAY IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION AND AT APPROPRIATE MOMENT PERMITTED GOP TO GET RID OF BARRICADES WITH LESS FUSS THAN WHEN THE LEFT AND FAR LEFT ARE IN CHARGE. SO FAR, WE HAVE HEARD OF NO ATTEMPTS BY PS SUPPORTERS TO DISMANTLE THE LISBON BARRICADES. END COMMENT)

3. VIOLENCE AGAINST PCP: MORE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE OCCURRED AGAINST THE PCP IN COUNTRYSIDE. PCP HEADQUARTERS IN AVEIRO, 30 MILES SOUTH OF OPORTO WAS BESIEGED AND DAMAGED BY A MOB ON JULY 18. THE ARMY WAS BROUGHT IN TO RESCUE THE PCP MEMBERS IN THE BUILDING BUT DID NOT ATTEMPT TO DISPERSE THE CROWD. IN BATALHA, A LARGE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS IN CONNECTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LISBON 04082 191258Z

WITH AN ELECTION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES HAD NOT BEEN DESOLVED AS OF MORNING JULY 19.

4. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEETING: A RESTRICTED GROUP OF RC MEMBERS HELD SHORT MEETING ON EVENING JULY 18 WITH PCP, PS, AND INTERSINDICAL MEMBERS TO DISCUSS THE RISING TENSION. NO DECISIONS WERE ANNOUNCED, BUT VASCO LOURENCO DID SAY SOCIALISTS WERE NOT REACTIONARIES AND PS LEADERSHIP WAS APPEALING FOR CALM. A FULL

MEETING OF THE RC IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY, AND AN EFFORT TO OUST THE PM IS EXPECTED (REF B).

5. COMMENT: LISBON PRESS HAS DOWNPLAYED GIANT PS OPORTO DEMONSTRATION IN JULY 19 PAPERS AND GIVEN FRONT PAGE ATTENTION TO TINY PCP-SUPPORTED DEMONSTRATION OF WORKERS AND NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES. NEVERTHELESS, WORD OF THE PS SUCCESS IS COMING TO LISBON. IF COPCON NOT ABLE TO KEEP CHECKPOINTS HERE UNDER CONTROL, AS THEY HAVE SO FAR, CLASHES CAN BE EXPECTED BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND CIVILIANS MANNING THE CHECKPOINTS. SOARES IS NOT SEEKING VIOLENCE BUT RANK AND FILE IS GETTING INCREASINGLY FEISTY.
CARLUCCI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON04082
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750250-0754
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750739/aaaabiog.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 4044, 75 LISBON 4080
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006